

# PERSPECTIVE

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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## STUDENT FOCUS

Ruthanne Crapo

By Allyson Dziedzic

*To provide a flavor of junior member life at various stages along the path, we interviewed ICS PhD candidate Ruthanne Crapo, who has completed her coursework and is currently working on her dissertation.*

Where are you now, and what made you choose that location as a place to live after finishing your coursework?

My partner, Dan, received a position as youth minister in Kentucky. He worked and supported me while I attended the ICS and when I finished my resident studies. I felt it was time to give him a chance to pursue his gift and calling as well. We live in a rural town of about 2500 people in Western Kentucky and are surrounded by three Super Walgreens; shopping responsibly is a new challenge. He ministers to a group of middle and high school age students, roughly 50 in the group, and I spend my days writing my dissertation, teaching part-time at a local community college, and drinking a lot of coffee (we live in a dry county).



How are you keeping up on your research and studying? What research are you currently working on?

Because of my teaching post, I am currently doing quite a bit of research in applied ethics and will be teaching two other courses in the fall in Bioethics and Religious Studies in the Old Testament. I am concurrently working on my dissertation research in every spare moment I can find. Briefly, my dissertation research engages issues surrounding the family and state using Luce Irigaray and G.W.F. Hegel as primary conversation partners to suggest ultimately, a philosophy of love.

What type of community involvement do you experience?

The church community takes up much of our time, but I also teach English to a group of immigrant workers at a local Mexican restaurant once a week, I am involved with the county arts commission, and I am a member of the local Sierra Club.

How has your work and time at the ICS helped prepare you for what you are doing now?

I am greatly indebted to my time at ICS and believe it has allowed me to flourish in my current life space. As an instructor I have come to realize the value of reading texts slowly and carefully and attempt to pass this

skill to my students. Teaching controversial topics in ethics requires a willingness to engage an issue from a plurality of perspectives and I believe ICS is where I first learned to read other philosophers charitably and fairly, seeking to define my own position in a way that does not ignore the tensions of responsible truth. ICS has also allowed me to write in a distinctly Christian manner that resists sacred/secular binaries. For me, philosophy is a deeply religious pursuit, and as I seek to articulate notions of God, humanity, and creation, as well as the roles of responsibility between them, I depend so much upon the relationships and training I received in Toronto. I cannot say enough about the senior members and their willingness to show me diligent and faithful scholarship. As I write my dissertation, I also rely on my connections with other junior members.



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Christian Graduate Education since 1967

## PRESIDENT'S ANGLE

### Medium, large, small

Is it my memory of the picture in the children's Bible story book, or is it Luke's habit of saying woe-to-the-rich, but I got used to reading the story of Jesus observing the temple offering (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4) as a contrast between proud large donors and one humble small donor, with Jesus praising the widow and downplaying the larger gifts.

However, from my interim-president's angle I have seen some large gifts arrive at ICS and some small gifts. I have read notes and spoken to a number of givers. A very generous donor says humbly, "I'm just glad to be of help." Another says, "We'll do what we can." A widow sends a check for stamps to keep the prayer letter coming. Small, medium, or large – these acts of giving bring joy to my heart and tears to my eyes.

Did Jesus feel the same way as he sat there watching people come into the temple? Did his heart fill with joy as he saw the faithful bring their gifts and



was he especially touched by that small but, as percentage of income, immense gift of the widow?

Mark's account allows me to say, Why not?!

Mark, who usually writes even more briefly than I do, has a larger account than Luke. He pictures a broader scene: "And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury." Then he describes many rich people putting in large sums and the poor widow's penny. Thus, the multitude gives, and from them come medium, large, and small gifts. And Jesus notes with joy, and perhaps as a warning to future deacons and bean counters, "Look at the ready generosity of this woman -- she dug into her grocery money!"

As I've been at ICS now for more than half of my interim and watched some of the yearend giving and now the membership renewals coming in, I have been struck by the loyalty and ready generosity of our members and supporters – medium, large, and small. Many of you have supported ICS as long as it's been around or you've known about it. According to Robert

Putnam in an article on "Bowling alone" that Jennie Krabbe passed on to us, you are almost counter-cultural in your loyalty. For various reasons people seem to be less connected to groups and organizations now than in the 1950's; memberships in organizations are down; there are more bowlers but fewer bowl in leagues.

So from my angle it looks like you have a lot of commitment to the vision that drives this organization, the same vision that sends you to church, to support Christian education for your children and grandchildren, to support justice in public life: Jesus who watches the multitude go into the temple is Lord of the universe, in his Light we see light, light for all of learning and living.

Actually, the incident at the temple happens near the Last Supper and Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. The time when he sacrifices his life draws near. It must have warmed his heart and steeled his determination to see this loving, sacrificial gift.

Your acts of Christian giving still warm our hearts and help us to do our work with joy.

Thank you!

Morris Greidanus

## RECENT PHD'S: Middleton and Ansell

By Allyson Dziedzic

There are a lot of students finishing their programs this year at the Institute. This year's graduating class may indeed be the biggest one yet, but two students in particular have seen the fruits of long and hard study, and that is our two PhD candidates who successfully defended this year: Richard Middleton and Nik Ansell.

One thing common to both these scholars is their belief that the ICS is a special place, and their love of scholarly activity. "I wanted the freedom to ask philosophical questions about theology as a field without having to fight against the claim that religious studies and theology should be neutral," Nik says, noting the ICS was the natural choice for such a project. The Institute's ability to foster rigorous intellectual discourse that is faith-grounded is a frequent reason ICS students cite for choosing to do their programs here.

(Continued on page 7)



Richard Middleton



Nik Ansell



# BEYOND THESE WALLS

*A look at ICS student involvement in church and community*

by Eva Vanderberg

**W**hat does it mean to be a Christian scholar living in Toronto? What role does/should community play? These questions are especially pressing to many ICS students, where moving to Toronto to begin their studies entails more than simply an academic change.

When asked about involvement in the community outside of the walls of the ICS, many students indicated that church attendance and participation is an important and meaningful means of connecting and interacting with others. Student Jeff Hocking affirmed this after describing his recent involvement in St. Mary Magdeline's Anglo-Catholic church, which he attends with several other students: "I know [it's] not much, but that is what really made me feel like I had a home in Toronto." This statement rings true for many ICS students.

## Church

involvement also takes the form of volunteering, in various ways. Mike and Yvana Mols have been able to help with their church's monthly community dinner: an event in which a home-cooked meal is provided to those in the neighbourhood who are in need of food. "It was great to see people so thankful for a warm place to be, warm food to eat, and a smile," Yvana said of the experience. Participation within a church community has also allowed students to share their musical abilities, as First CRC has seen in recent months.

While participating in a church and being a full time student requires dedication and certainly a large time commitment, some manage to find space in their schedules to put down the books and seek alternative ways to learn, to grow, and to contribute to the world around them. Several times a



year, Allyson Dziedzic volunteers her time to do historical demos for school kids. Daniel Jesse is taking what he's learned from reformational philosophy to aid in the setting up of a Worldview program at his home church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He explains, "we are working on people getting to know the totality of life, and I am working on

***some manage to find space in their schedules to put down the books and seek alternative ways to learn, to grow, and to contribute to the world around them***

teaching/writing the philosophical background of this thought."

Taking it a step further, there are those students who also involve themselves with service-oriented organizations in Toronto. Combining vocation and school work, while seeming to defy time constraints,

Daniel Sem's community involvement demonstrates an admirable dedication to helping those in need. He volunteers for two NGOs in the Toronto area: the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, and the Society of Sharing: Inner City Volunteers. "I have always had the desire to care and support those who need my love. So at the Society of Sharing, I visit and provide practical and emotional support to a client who is physically

helpless." Daniel's involvement is extensive and indeed inspiring, as he uses his gifts to help refugees adjust to life in Canada, and works to encourage other volunteers at the Centre as well.

Through the various means and degrees of community involvement, ICS students both give to and are enriched by their

communities. Students have found that those who are involved in service in the community—whether in churches, scholarly activity, or other organizations—find themselves blessed and their lives enhanced by the people they meet and the experiences they take part in.





## ICS WORLDVIEW CONFERENCES AND LECTURES 2006

By Jenny Krabbe

The 2006 ICS Worldview Conferences and Lectures opened with something tried and something new.

Sylvia Keesmaat offered the last of her "Biblical Faith in the Shadow of Empire" addresses in the Vancouver area on January 28. Some might say that the best was saved for last, but in the interest of regional appreciation rather than alienation we'll simply note that the more than 90 participants, including more than a dozen students, were very enthusiastic about the day.

Sylvia's focus on scripture and culture, the day's encouraging stories, and relevant workshops enabled "a little bit of renewed hope in Christendom, and a challenge to daily repentance, moving away more and more from the gods of empire." One participant reflected that they were "challenged to think differently", noting that they "have a new focus and new energy to serve."

Hearing scripture speak in combination with stories of ways people serve, challenged participants in their own words to be "countercultural." Presenter Jeff Littlejohn makes a difference in Bellingham WA, while a Jabez coffee shop owner gives of himself right in Whalley, the underside of Surrey, BC. These examples prompted participants to suggest that they need to "help my world in practical if unglamorous ways."

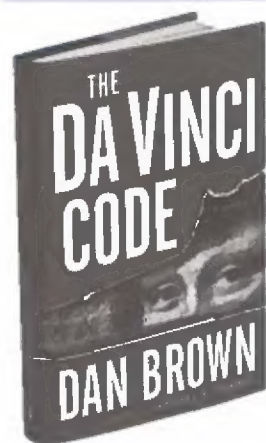
Something new came to Calgary and Edmonton on Feb. 8 and 9 respectively in the form of a public lecture offered by Nik Ansell. The lecture was titled "Like the Angels? Re-imagining Sexuality in God's Future." Audiences of 65 and 70 respectively were challenged to follow Nik's path while he described the echoes of Genesis in John, the bridegroom motif in the gospels and Jeremiah, parallels of Mary to Ruth, and suggestions of the New Jerusalem as a beginning, promise and calling. He suggested that the life to come is in the here and now, realized eschatology. For a summary of Nik's

## Like The Angels?

*Re-imagining Sexuality in God's Future*

The claim of *The Da Vinci Code*—that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were partners whose descendants became the Merovingian kings of Europe—has caught the imagination of millions of readers [note]. This claim challenges the Christian community to think through the significance of the biblical portrayal of Christ as unmarried. Is our sexuality negated?

This public lecture began by exploring the most extensive gospel account of Mary Magdalene in John 20, suggesting that ten echoes of the Garden of Eden narrative found there point to a New Adam-New Eve theme in which we see the beginning of the new creation and the promise of the new creation of male and female.



The significance of Jesus being unmarried maybe related to the prophet Jeremiah who, in living out his message about the imminent destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple (which represented the created order), was forbidden to marry or have children (Jer. 16:2 cf. Jn. 2:19-21 and 11:48). Although Jeremiah prophesied that the joy of bride and groom would be silenced (Jer. 7:34, 16:9, 25:10 cf. Rev. 18:22-23), he also saw the blessing of sexual love returning after the exile (Jer. 33:10-11). God's creation of a "new thing on the earth" in the relationship between the sexes (31:32) is part of the "new covenant" between God and humanity (31:31ff.). Thus, in the

healing of the Creator-creation relationship, all covenants of existence are renewed and deepened (as beautifully expressed in Hos. 2:21-23).

This pattern was also proposed for John's Apocalypse suggesting that within the 'space' opened up by the covenant between Christ (as bridegroom) and the New Jerusalem (as bride), the promise of the renewal glimpsed in the garden of Jn. 20, might come to fruition in the eschatological city of Rev. 21-22.

A dualistic vision that would divorce the present age and the age to come might seem to be supported by Jesus' claim that the children of the resurrection will be like the angels (Lk. 20:27-36). But read in context, this passage is about freedom from coercion, not the negation of marriage or commitment as such. Angels are entirely free to serve God. The children of the resurrection may thus experience what Paul calls "the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). The New Testament presents us with an 'inaugurated eschatology'—a vision of the New Creation which has already begun. Re-imagining sexuality in God's future is for the here and now.

Nik Ansell hopes to publish a full version of this lecture in the near future. The reading of Lk. 20 is based on his article available at [www.thirdway.org.uk/past/index.htm](http://www.thirdway.org.uk/past/index.htm) (click on "Commentaries"; find and click on the Luke 20 commentary down the list.)

**Note:** Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code* (New York: Doubleday, 2003) has clearly been influenced by the approach to biblical interpretation proposed by Margaret Starbird, *The Woman With The Alabaster Jar: Mary Magdalen and the Holy Grail* (Rochester, Vermont: Bear and Co., 1993). Starbird was in turn influenced by the earlier bestseller by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1982).



## FACULTY PROFILE: Ron Kuipers

By Allyson Dziedzic

*This is the second in a series of articles that will be appearing in Perspectives, based on interviews that mean to highlight different Senior Members on faculty here.*

**R**on Kuipers, Senior Member in Philosophy of Religion and the most recent faculty member to join the ICS, has been associated with the Institute in various capacities for nearly fourteen years. Although Ron just completed his tenure as a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto's Department of Political Science, he received his M.Phil.F. from the Institute, and his Ph.D. from the Vrije Universiteit through the ICS/VU joint doctoral program. He enjoys the continual challenge of learning the "craft" of teaching graduate seminars and creating space for interaction that is meaningful and rewarding, and the ICS is the perfect place for that interaction. "This is really a crazy, special place that's doing something quite

unique globally," Ron says.

Ron always approaches his work from existential issues, particularly around

questions of faith. One of the main issues that interests him is uncovering the religious background of secular debate. He is currently looking at recent developments in philosophy that have lead to



texts and traditions to help develop their theoretical work. He sees this as a shift and acknowledgement that religious traditions have not been superseded, as was previously supposed by many secular thinkers, but that religion is still needed for our culture, and that the passing on and receiving of traditions—even religious traditions—can be a critical exercise. His current research includes such authors as Jürgen Habermas and Richard Rorty, whose epistemologies, though thoroughly secular, still do not rule out the legitimacy of having a religious orientation.

Ron is also interested in what the post-secular turn might mean for Christian scholars, in terms of thinking through their interaction with the academic community and with their faith.

He hopes his work will make a contribution not just to academic debates, but that it may also become a "resource" for the wider community.

***He hopes his work will make a contribution not just to academic debates, but that it may also become a "resource" for the wider community.***

what some people are calling a "post-secular turn"—that is, where secular philosophers are returning to religious

"The ICS opened up a space for me within my own tradition that allowed me to struggle with several aspects of it that had troubled me, and in doing so it gave me the great gift of allowing me to continue to belong to a tradition that is very close to my heart, but from which I had become increasingly estranged. My hope now is to be able to give something back to this tradition."

He hopes to nurture this space, to keep his own work actively engaged in the dialogue between sacred and secular, and to help allow new students the ability to have that same space, so that they in turn can critically engage their faith, and find their own philosophical orientation within the context of their religious tradition. Going further, he hopes that the ICS will be able to continue doing what it's done, and even expand: growing and adding more faculty to accommodate the rising numbers of students who wish to study in just this sort of environment.

### 2005/6 Recipients of Named Awards

<i>Wilma Lorraine Nothrop Cumming Scholarship</i>	Allyson Dziedzic
<i>Laura Dale Memorial Scholarships</i>	Rachel McGuire
	Trish Van Dyk
<i>Bernard Zylstra Memorial Scholarship</i>	Mark Miller
<i>"Worldview Conferences" Scholarship</i>	Lucas Moord
<i>Pete Steen Memorial Scholarship</i>	Sean Purcell
<i>Hendrika Slopsema African Student Scholarship</i>	Daniel Sem
<i>Entry scholarships</i>	Jonathan Stanley
	Yvana Mols
<i>2nd year MA Award of Excellence</i>	Benjamin Groenewold
<i>2nd year PhD Award of Excellence</i>	Murray Johnston

*We congratulate these award winners. Many other students were awarded financial assistance. The above listed named awards plus other financial assistance is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Christian community.*

## ICS FACULTY PUBLISH NEW BOOKS

The ICS community will want to make room on its bookshelves for two more books to squeeze in; Senior Members Lambert Zuidervaart and Doug Blomberg have both just had books accepted at publishers.

Doug's book, *Wisdom and Curriculum: Christian Schooling after Postmodernity*, will be published by Dordt College Press. Addressed specifically to teachers, this book was written with the purpose of putting forward a biblically informed perspective on wisdom as an alternative to the theory-into-practice paradigm currently used by most schools. Former ICS senator John Van Dyk, a professor at Dordt College, will be writing the introduction to the book.



Doug Blomberg

Lambert's book, *Thinking Otherwise: Social Philosophy after Adorno*, will be published by Cambridge University Press. Using the social philosophy of Theodor W. Adorno—one of the most important post-World War II German philosophers and social critics—it undertakes a critical retrieval of Adorno's work that acknowledges suffering and hope, recasts truth-telling as a democratic concept, looks for a normative approach for globalization, and for the possibility of Adorno's social criticism revitalizing feminist politics.



Lambert Zuidervaart

*We congratulate both Lambert and Doug on the publication of their books!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Convocation and Graduation Ceremony

May 26, 2006 7 p.m.

*Celebration of 13 Masters and 2 PhD Graduates, President Dr. John Suk will be installed, Dr. Nicholas Ansell will give his inaugural address as ICS Senior Member in Theology*

### Alumni lunch

May 27, 2006 12:00 noon

### Fall Convocation and

### President John Suk's Inaugural Address

tentatively October 20, 2006

### Preaching Conferences:

Lynden WA

tentatively November 6, 2006

Toronto ON

tentatively February 13, 2007

**Check ICS website for details**

## PASTORS CONFERENCES 2005 AND 2006

They've been happening, they've been well received and we hope to carry-on. Why?

Preaching and communication of all forms is a challenge in our postmodern context. Reading and preaching culture represents a homiletical paradigm with potential to speak to this context. Pastors explored how the living Word is embodied in popular culture, art, music, and literature. At the same time, rooting an approach theologically matters too, grounding it in common grace, general revelation, imago dei and the cultural mandate.

Over the course of the past year 3 one-day conferences were offered to pastors. Two last spring in Toronto and Edmonton featured emeritus professor George VanderVelde and John VanSloten, pastor of New Hope Church in Calgary. Encouraged by the interest, ICS hosted a conference this past November in Lynden Washington with John Suk and John Van Sloten presenting. The 45 pastors attending indicated an interest in follow-up, and as a result plans are in the works. Stay tuned.



## FACULTY FOCUS

### Ron Kuipers

On June 1, Ron Kuipers will be participating in a panel discussion at the Society for Christian Philosophers (SCP) annual meeting, on the work of Paul Ricoeur. The SCP meets as part of the larger Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) Annual Conference, this year held at York University in Toronto (from late May-early June).

### Jonathan Chaplin

The Educational Policy Committee, chaired by Academic Dean JC, has been working very hard a revised draft of our internal Program Review. It is now ready to submit to Academic Council and Senate, ready for implementation in Fall 2006. EPC is grateful to have reached this point after over two years work.

### Doug Blomberg

Doug Blomberg's article, "The Formation of Character: Spirituality Seeking Justice" has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Education & Christian Belief*. Dordt College Press will publish Doug's book, *Wisdom and Curriculum: Christian Schooling after Modernity*. He served on the Program Review Committee

for the International Network of Philosophers of Education Conference, and also completed reviews of articles for *Studies in Philosophy and Education* and the *Journal of Education & Christian Belief*. He presented a paper ("A Philosophical Anthropology for (W)holistic Education") at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

### Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin

Adrienne gave a lecture for art students at the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh organized by the Coalition for Christian Outreach from 24-26 February. The lecture, entitled "Art, Faith and Warhol: Journeying Between the Modern and the Postmodern" was held in the lecture theatre of the Warhol Museum and was followed by a tour through the museum led by Adrienne.

### Lambert Zuidervaart

Lambert's book on *Artistic Truth* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) has been selected as the winner of the *Symposium Book Award*. One winner is selected each year from a field of recent books in continental philosophy written by authors in Canada and

abroad. The Canadian Society for Continental Society, which publishes the journal *Symposium* and sponsors the award, will feature Lambert as its keynote speaker at York University on the evening of May 30. Last April he lectured at Calvin College on "Truth and Interpretation: Science, Religion, and Culture," as part of a grant-funded series titled *Interpreting Science and Religion: Contributions from Continental Philosophy*. Lambert repeated this lecture at Redeemer University College in September and at Trinity Christian College in October. In November he presented a paper on Adorno's *Dialectic of Enlightenment* to a conference on globalization at Calvin College and to a Philosophy Department Colloquium at the University of South Carolina. Lambert learned in December that his new book on *Social Philosophy after Adorno* will be published by Cambridge University Press.

### George Vandervelde

George is currently visiting at the Free University in Amsterdam, where he is teaching a course on Christology ("Who is Jesus?"). This is his second stint as guest professor at the Free University, where he did his masters and doctoral work in the seventies.

### Recent PhD's: Middleton and Ansell

(continued from page 2)

and Nik is no exception to that: "I wanted to engage the nitty gritty of theology and bring perspectival awareness to bear on specific theological arguments and positions."

Richard agrees: "I chose ICS because the level of intellectual discourse at this institution is simply unsurpassed in my experience." He also points out that the ICS allows for a type of thought that is not given room in other programs: "My project, the interpretation of humanity as *imago Dei* (image of God), arises out

of my own struggle with questions of identity [and] is interdisciplinary in scope, blending Old Testament studies with contemporary theological and ethical reflection. Only at ICS could I have done such an interdisciplinary dissertation!"

Both of them have found jobs in academia; Nik is the ICS's own Senior Member in theology, and Richard is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY. They also are both looking forward to continuing the work they have already begun. Richard is currently writing an entry on violence in the Bible for the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

and also for a biblical commentary on 1 and 2 Samuel for the Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries, as well as an article on redemption as the renewal of creation for the online *Journal of Christian Theological Research*. Nik meanwhile is working on getting his dissertation and related work on the book of Revelations published, and has returned to thinking about gender and theology. His upcoming inaugural address for the ICS's convocation will be on "Creational Man/Eschatological Woman: A Future for Theology."



## PERSPECTIVE

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<b>Search for Community in a Withering Tradition:</b> <i>Conversations between a Marxist Atheist and a Calvinist Christian.</i> Kai Nielson & Hendrik Hart. University Press of America, 1990. 242 p.		\$22.95	\$9.99	\$ _____
<b>Pledges of Jubilee: Essays on the Arts and Culture, in Honor of Calvin G. Seerveld.</b> L. Zuidervaart & H. Luttikhuisen, eds. Eerdmans, 1995. 354 p.		\$29.75	\$14.99	\$ _____
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### ICS CALLING!

2006 Annual Phone Campaign – April 24 to May 13

*"Therefore encourage one another ..." 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

An ICS student will be phoning you between April 24 and May 13. Besides financial goals for this campaign, here are two good reasons for a student to call you:

1. It gives the student a chance to thank you for the education he or she has received which would not be possible without you; and
2. It gives you a chance to encourage this student.

#### Campaign Goal \$75,000 to \$100,000

1. If you have instructed us not to call, you will not be called.
2. You can make a donation now on-line at [www.icscanada.edu/phonecampaign](http://www.icscanada.edu/phonecampaign)
3. Calls usually last no longer than two to four minutes.

4. If our call comes at a bad time, please tell our caller when a better time is.
5. If you prefer that we not call in future, please tell the caller, who will pass it on.
6. We appreciate your time and your support.

*Thank you for taking our call and for your support of ICS students.*